

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03763 091917Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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SAJ-01 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /126 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1123

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNAMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

ALL NATO CAPITALS 3209

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3763

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BURDEN SHARING STUDY: INITIAL MEETING OF STUDY GROUP

REF: USNATO 3744

BEGIN SUMMARY: STUDY GROUP ON FINANCIAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE STATIONING OF FORCES ON THE TERRITORY OF OTHER NATO COUNTRIES HELD ITS INITIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1973. MEETING (FROM WHICH THE FRENCH WERE ABSENT) LAID THE GROUND WORK FOR FUTURE ACTION BY THE STUDY GROUP WHO AGREED IN THE INTEREST OF SAVING TIME TO UNDERTAKE THE STUDY IN TWO CONCURRENT PHASES, ONE ON THE VERIFICATION OF DATA, THE OTHER ON POSSIBLE REMEDIAL MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

1. STUDY GROUP CHAIRMAN (HUMPHREYS) WHO TERMED THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GROUP A "BUSINESS MEETING" PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING METHOD AND PROGRAM FOR FUTURE WORK PROPOSED THAT THE STUDY FO FORWARD USING A TWIN APPROACH. ON THE ONE HAND, BASIC STATISTICAL DATA REQUIRED VERIFICATION TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL SO THAT THE RESULTING FIGURES  
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PAGE 02 NATO 03763 091917Z

PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR A FAIR AND ADEQUATE SOLUTION; ON THE OTHER HAND AN EXAMINATION OF ALL POSSIBLE REMEDIAL OR OFF-SETTING MEASURES MUST BE UNDERTAKEN IN PARELLEL TO GAIN AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE. CHAIRMAN FURTHER COMMENTED THAT

WHILE THE FRENCH WERE NOT PRESENT AT THIS INITIAL MEETING HE HAD ASCERTAINED THAT THIS WAS DUE TO LACK OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS AND NOT TO A DELIBERATE DECISION TO TAKE NO PART IN THE PROCEEDINGS. IN SUBSEQUENT INTERVENTIONS MOST DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED THEIR REGRETS AT THE FRENCH ABSENCE AND HUMPHREYS UNDERTOOK TO PASS ON TO THE FRENCH THESE SENTIMENTS.

2. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION IN THE GROUP INDICATED A CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN VARIOUS DETAILS OF THE U.S. DATA AND WE ANTICIPATE A FAIR AMOUNT OF QUESTIONING, ALTHOUGH HUMPHREYS POINTED OUT THAT THE OBJECT WAS TO GET A REASONABLY ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE MILITARY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION WITHOUT GOING INTO TOO MUCH DETAIL THEREBY HOLDING UP THE WORK.

3. PRENDERGAST DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN UNABLE AT ITS MEETING OF AUGUST 8, TO SET TARGET DATES FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE GROUP'S WORK EXPRESSED THE FIRM OPINION OF THE U.S. THAT REPORT MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE COUNCIL BY OCTOBER 1, TO PERMIT ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION IN CAPITALS IF TANGIBLE RESULTS WERE TO BE AVAILABLE IN DECEMBER. HE REMINDED THE GROUP THAT THERE WERE TWO ASPECTS TO THE FINANCIAL SIDE OF THE PROBLEM, THE FIRST BEING THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT, THE SECOND THE ADDED BUDGETARY COSTS OF MAINTAINING U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE IN LIEU OF IN THE STATES. WHILE THE GROUP SHOULD LOOK AT DATA AND AGREE ON A SET OF BASIC FIGURES, WE WERE NOW BEYOND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE US HAS A PROBLEM AND THE REQUIREMENT WAS FOR PROPOSALS LEADING TO A SOLUTION.

4. STUDY GROUP AGREED TO NEXT MEET ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 21 AND THURSDAY, AUGUST 23. AT THE FIRST MEETING DATA WILL BE DISCUSSED WHILE THE SECOND WILL BE DEVOTED TO A DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS. IN THE MEANTIME DELEGATIONS WERE ASKED TO REDUCE QUESTIONS ON U.S. DATA TO WRITING AND SUBMIT TO THE U.S. NATO MISSION IN PREPARATION FOR THE AUGUST 21 MEETING.  
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PAGE 03 NATO 03763 091917Z

5. WE CONSIDER GROUP HAS GOTTEN OFF TO A REASONABLY GOOD START, BUT TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM WILL REQUIRE RAPID RESPONSE ON OUR PART, IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF MISSION FOR THESE PURPOSES ARE INDICATED SEPTTEL AND IN USNATO 3746.  
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